

aisle in thanking Director Sullivan for his outstanding service to our Nation.

#### REMEMBERING CARDISS COLLINS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, I want to pay tribute to an exceptional, Illinoisan who passed away this weekend.

Congresswoman Cardiss Collins served my State and the city of Chicago with distinction for more than two decades, and I was honored to have served with her in the House.

Representative Collins did not plan for a political life. She was an accountant and a mother. But when her husband, Congressman George Collins, died in a plane crash, Cardiss was convinced to run in a special election to succeed him. And she won, becoming the first African American woman elected to Congress from Illinois.

When she arrived in Washington, she learned the job quickly and became a leader on a variety of issues—from women's rights, to children's rights, to healthcare. Her colleagues quickly recognized her leadership qualities. After just a few terms, they elected her chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus. She also soon became the first African American woman to be elected Democratic Majority Whip At-Large.

I am glad that I had the chance to get to know Cardiss Collins. I—and countless Illinoisans—will remember her fighting spirit, her conviction in what was right and, of course, her sense of humor.

In 1993, a newly elected Illinois Senator by the name of Carol Moseley-Braun had decided—along with Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI—to do something no woman had ever done on the Senate floor: wear pants, instead of a dress or skirt. At the time, women were actually prohibited by the Senate rules from wearing trousers. And these Senators' decision ruffled a few feathers around here.

Well, this didn't sit right with Congresswoman Collins, and she had something to say about it. What she said was, "They shouldn't be concerned about the dress code, unless the men Senators start wearing dresses."

Soon after, the Senate amended its rules.

Congresswoman Collins played a part in tearing down that barrier, just as she did for so many other barriers and inequalities for women and minorities across the country. That is the kind of person she was: a fighter.

I will close by simply acknowledging for all the good she did, both here in Congress and back home in Chicago, fighting the good fight. Congresswoman Cardiss Collins will be missed.

#### TRIBUTE TO JIM MOLINARI

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the service of one of the Senate's most dedicated, loyal and capable employees, James J. Molinari.

Jim has served as my State director for more than a decade, but his public service began many years ago.

In 1967, Jim began his 45-year career in public service when he became a patrol officer with the San Francisco Police Department.

For 27 years he rose through the ranks of the police department, and he did it all. From street patrol to investigations, undercover assignment to a Federal liaison, Jim was given the responsibilities.

From 1977 through 1986, during my tenure as mayor of San Francisco, Jim was a senior staff member in the mayor's office. He was responsible for security for both the mayor and visiting dignitaries, and he served as my advisor on law enforcement matters.

Jim was at my side for many of the most significant moments of my service as mayor.

We hosted two Super Bowl parades in 1982 and 1985, the 1984 Democratic National Convention, and even visits by the Pope and the Queen of England.

I still remember those days, and I am happy that Jim was there to share them with me.

In 1992 he became a captain and commanding officer of the Planning and Research Division.

I have no doubt that Jim would have kept climbing the ladder in the Police Department, but in 1994 I helped convince him that his talents were suitable for a larger stage and that he would make a fine U.S. Marshal.

On February 11, 1994, President Clinton appointed Jim the United States Marshal for the Northern District of California.

Jim served as a Marshal for 7 years, during which time he was responsible for the administration of Federal law enforcement for 15 northern California counties, or about 12 million people.

He oversaw a \$35 million budget and had a staff of about 130.

In 2001, Jim decided to focus his experience on counternarcotics and became director of the San Francisco Bay Area High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area. As executive director, he oversaw coordination and implementation of the agency's programs and initiatives.

In 2002, I convinced Jim to return to my office as State director.

As State director, Jim advises around 30 employees and oversees operations in my four State offices, in San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego and Fresno.

It is an understatement for me to call Jim one of my most trusted public policy and legislative advisors.

I don't know if it's his roots as a police officer or his Italian sensibilities, but Jim is practical, he cuts through the red tape and he calls it how he sees it.

Jim is a real 10.

Mr. President, I ask that you and all of our colleagues join in thanking Jim Molinari for his years of service, not only to the Senate but to the State of California and the Nation.

We wish him a wonderful retirement and want him to know we all appreciate his service and friendship.

#### CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, for more than 150 years, leaders from President Abraham Lincoln to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. have challenged us to keep faith with the true spirit of our Constitution. Today we continue the work of these two dynamic men who courageously led the charge—during times of national division and civil strife—in pursuing a more perfect union where all Americans are truly free and have equal access to opportunity.

As we celebrate Black History Month this year, I am honored to reflect on the historical and everyday contributions of African-Americans to the State of Colorado and to our country. Their efforts to ensure equality for all Americans are tightly woven into the fabric of our ever-evolving Nation.

Last month, millions of Americans and I watched as President Barack Obama took the oath for his second Presidential term. And for the first time in our Nation's history, there are two African-American U.S. Senators serving at the same time—Senators TIM SCOTT of South Carolina and MO COWAN of Massachusetts. Following the 2012 elections, Colorado celebrated a record number of African-American lawmakers in the Colorado House of Representatives, known as the "historic five" who are paving the way for more diversity. I also am proud of how our State set the precedent for the country 4 years ago, when two African-American lawmakers, Rep. Terrance Carroll and Senator Peter Groff, held the top leadership roles in the Colorado General Assembly. These public servants were role models and leaders on so many important issues—one of which was pushing hard to create educational opportunities for all Coloradans.

Creating opportunity through education is critical, and as we work to close achievement and economic opportunity gaps throughout our State and country, I would like to pay homage to two of Colorado's African-American pioneers who have worked tirelessly to guarantee equal access to quality education for all Coloradans.

Omar D. Blair, a member of the Tuskegee Airmen in the 1940s, served as the first African-American president of the Denver Board of Education and went on to become the first African-American president of the Colorado Association of School Boards. During his tenure as president of the Denver Board of Education, Blair championed quality education and led the city through the controversial desegregation of its public schools.

Rachel B. Noel, known as the lion of the African-American civil rights movement in Denver, became the first African-American elected to the Denver Board of Education and was also